

funktion," by Prof. E. Landau, of Göttingen; "The dynamics of radiation," by Sir J. Larmor; "The place of mathematics in engineering practice," by Sir W. H. White. The formal opening meeting is to take place this morning, and the formal concluding meeting on the evening of August 27.

Besides the lectures and sectional meetings there will be many opportunities for social intercourse afforded by evening receptions, afternoon parties, and excursions. On the evening of Wednesday, August 21, the members of the congress were received in the Combination Room and Hall of St. John's College by Sir George Darwin, President of the Cambridge Philosophical Society, and Mr. R. F. Scott, Vice-Chancellor of the University. On the evening of Friday, August 23, they will be received at the Fitzwilliam Museum by Lord Rayleigh, the Chancellor of the University. On Sunday afternoon, August 25, the organising committee will receive the members in the gardens of Christ's College, and in the evening an organ recital will be given in King's College Chapel; also on Monday evening, August 26, there will be a reception in Trinity College by the master and fellows. Facilities will be given for visits to the works of the Cambridge Scientific Instrument-making Company, visitors to which will be entertained by Mrs. Horace Darwin, and to the University Observatory, visitors to which will be entertained by Mrs. Newall. An excursion has been organised to Ely on the Monday afternoon, and for the day after the concluding meeting visits are arranged to Oxford and Hatfield. A committee of ladies, under the presidency of Lady Darwin, has issued a very complete and varied programme of visits to objects of interest in Cambridge for those ladies who accompany members of the congress and may not wish to attend the sectional meetings.

A large concourse is expected, more than 600 persons having already joined or indicated their intention of joining. There are large representations from practically all the countries of Europe, the United States, the British Dominions beyond the seas, Japan, Mexico, and various States of South America. The assembly will thus be truly cosmopolitan, and it is to be hoped that it may prove not less fruitful than the previous assemblies in other countries.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF BRITISH BIRDS.

THE first part of Mr. Stonham's beautiful work on British Birds¹ was noticed in these pages on its appearance, and the book has now been completed in twenty parts, forming five handsome volumes printed on pure rag paper, which is not liable to decay or to become discoloured. The beautiful drawings, remarkable for their softness and delicacy, go a long way, at all events, to justify the publishers' claim in the prospectus of the work that they are far superior to anything

of the kind yet produced in this country. As a rule, the adult male only of each species is figured, but when the sexes differ in any appreciable degree separate drawings are given. Further, there are additional plates of those nestlings and young birds (as, for example, some waders and gulls) the appearance and plumage of which call for especial illustration, and some winter plumages are given.

The same plan is followed in regard to any particular points of plumage, such as the outspread wing or tail, which the ordinary drawing does not show. Black and white illustration naturally lends itself with most success to those species which have sharply contrasted colours, but it is only in the case of some of those birds which have a large amount of bright chestnut or rufous in their plumage that we have noticed a failure to represent the colour effect adequately. For instance, the knot in summer (Pl. 253) is surely much too light-coloured, and gives little indication of the deep reddish chestnut underparts. The same may be said of the bar-tailed godwit in summer dress. Representing the partridge with the crown of its head of a plain pale colour may have been due possibly to some similar cause. One might, of course, criticise in some other cases minor items from the point of view of the scientific ornithologist, but on the whole there is nothing but high praise for the drawings, and they will entirely satisfy those to whom the work will mainly appeal, viz. the lover of birds, to whom, as to the author himself, they have long afforded so much pleasure and recreation.

It would be invidious to point to any plates especially remarkable for their beauty, but all bird-lovers, according to their individual taste, will surely, as we have done, find some which will be to them a joy for ever. But there are some of especial interest and value. Among these may be mentioned that of five ruffs in their varied liveries, and the remarkable attitudes assumed by them when on the "hill," and the downy nestling of the bar-tailed godwit, drawn from the specimen obtained by Mr. Popham on the Yenesei. Moreover, visitors to the Zoological Gardens in London in 1907 will be deeply grateful to the artist for preserving the pretty and interesting scene of the avocet nestling her young one in her own peculiar manner.

Though the letterpress is necessarily largely a compilation, the author has had very considerable experience as a field observer, and his personal observations will be read with great interest, not the less because the personal experiences of one field ornithologist so often differ a little from those of another; we cannot have too many of these original remarks, for herein lies much of the charm of the study. Here, for instance—to refer to one little thing only—we find that the clutch of eggs of the corn and yellow buntings is said to number from four to six; yet other observers (whose experience was perhaps gained in a different part of the country) we know would put the usual number at three or four only. The descriptions of the

¹ "The Birds of the British Islands." By Charles Stonham, C.M.G. With illustrations by Lil'ian M. Medland. In 20 parts. (London: Grant Richards, Ltd., Carlton Street, 1906-1911). Price 7s. 6d. net each part.

plumage, although short, have been carefully drawn up and are clearly expressed, but it is not correct to say that in young greater spotted woodpeckers the "entire head is crimson," though the entire crown of the head is so. Possibly it was a slip of the pen that produced Royston's instead of Royston crow.

An important feature of the book is the bibliography—a list of books relating to British birds, brought down to 1900. This valuable piece of work has been compiled by Mr. W. H. Mullens for the use of those who may desire to gain some general knowledge of the work which has been done in British ornithology in the past. The final parts contain a full addenda and corrigenda to the account of rare and accidental visitors given at the end of each family, bringing the records up to date; a glossary of synonyms and provincial names of British birds, scientific and English indices, a short preface to the final volume, and the list of subscribers.

DR. H. O. JONES, F.R.S.

ON Thursday, August 15, Mr. Humphrey Owen Jones, F.R.S., with his wife and a guide, met with a tragic death in an accident on the Alps, in the neighbourhood of Courmayeur, where Mr. and Mrs. Jones were spending part of their honeymoon. They were ascending the western face of the Mont Rouge de Peuteret, and were struck by a falling rock, which had become dislodged. They fell about a thousand feet to the Fresnay Glacier. It was in an attempt to make the first ascent of a peak in the same range, the Aiguille Blanche de Peuteret, that Prof. F. M. Balfour was killed in 1882.

Mr. Jones was born on February 20, 1878, and was educated at the University College, Aberystwyth, and at Clare College, Cambridge. He was one of the first graduates in science of the University of Wales. He graduated at Cambridge in 1900, obtaining the rare distinction of a "star" in chemistry in part ii. of the natural science tripos. He was admitted to the D.Sc. of the University of London in 1904. In 1902 he was appointed Jacksonian Demonstrator, a post which he held to the present time, and subsequently he became a fellow and lecturer of Clare College, Cambridge. In the present year, at the early age of thirty-four, he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society.

Mr. Jones was a man of remarkable energy and a born teacher. A peculiar quickness of perception enabled him immediately to understand and meet the difficulties of students. His lectures and his laboratory teaching, both to undergraduates and to postgraduates, were a feature of the university chemical laboratory. He was greatly interested in estimating the abilities and particular facilities of students. This characteristic made him an excellent examiner, an office which he was frequently called upon to fill, both in his own university and elsewhere. His original investigations and contributions to knowledge

were numerous and many-sided. As early as 1904 he was recognised as an authority on the stereochemistry of nitrogen, on which subject he wrote a detailed critical report for the British Association, and subsequently the chapter in the annual reports of the Chemical Society. With Sir James Dewar, he investigated metallic carbonyls, and discovered carbon monosulphide. More recently he had been engaged on researches on thiooxalates, and on the intricate problem of the constitution of aldol bases.

Mr. Jones also took a very active part in affairs not purely professional. He was a co-opted member of the Cambridge Appointments Board, where his power of discriminating between candidates was of particular value, and, with others, he directed the building of the recent extension to the chemical laboratory at Cambridge. His appointment to the Royal Commission to report on the use of oil fuel in the Navy, which is just announced, would have given scope to his ability in practical problems.

It is perhaps as a mountaineer that Mr. Jones will be best known to a wide circle of friends. Finding out almost accidentally, during a visit to North Wales seven years ago, his exceptional facilities as a rock climber, he set himself to learn, with characteristic energy and directness, the highest practice of the art from the best exponents. He rapidly acquired a minute knowledge of the Italian side of Mont Blanc, and was the originator of several new routes. Soon becoming recognised as a skilful cragsman and experienced mountaineer, he was elected a member of the Alpine Club in 1909, and was a member of the committee of the Climbers' Club.

He married, on August 1, Muriel Gwendolen Edwards, the second daughter of the Rev. William Edwards, of Bangor, a member of the Edwards family to which the Bishop of St. Asaph and the late Dean of Bangor belong. Mrs. Jones was also a chemist; she was a member of Newnham College, Cambridge, and was the first woman to be elected a fellow of the University of Wales.

K. J. P. O.

PROF. F. A. FOREL.

M. FRANCOIS ALPHONSE FOREL, of Morges, honorary professor of the University of Lausanne, who died on August 7 at seventy-one years of age, was born at Morges, on the shores of Lake Geneva, and devoted his life to the study of the lake, fostered in his studies by his father, Président Francois Forel, of Morges. "Pour nous, ses riverains," he writes, "le Léman est le roi des lacs; nous l'aimons avec enthousiasme, avec passion"; and from 1868 onwards there flowed from his pen memoir after memoir dealing with "le Léman" in all its varying aspects. There is no department of limnology that he did not enrich by his researches, and he may fairly be considered the founder and chief exponent of the scientific study of lakes.

Forel's activity as an author was great. In